ST
Number 130

THE COMIC READER

60¢
May 1976

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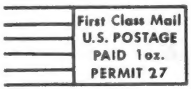

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P.O. Box 255 Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin 53051

Our Cover: Jim Aparo's Masked Manhunter being challenged by a covey of criminals, including Joker, Penguin and Two-Face. Batman © 1976, National Periodical Pub.

The COMIC READER

May 1976

Volume 1, Number 130

Jerome Sinkovec
Editor & Publisher

Jerry Bails
Founder

David Finger
Contributing Editor

Michael Tiefenbacher
Editor

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National News

Gerry Conway's books have been reassigned, and this is somewhat confusing, so bear with us. Joe Orlando has been named Managing Editor of all of the titles, and outright Editor of ALL STAR COMICS, to be written by Paul Levitz, and PLASTIC MAN, to continue to be written by Steve Skeates. All of the other books will be overseen by Joe, with Vince Colletta Art Director and Paul Levitz Editorial Coordinator. The other books have been assigned as follows:

Jack Harris will be Story Editor for BLACKHAWK and KAMANDI. He has made some changes in each, with Dave Kraft continuing to script BLACKHAWK but to change the direction somewhat. KAMANDI will be written by Denny O'Neil, and Elliot Maggin has done an interim issue. Plus, TALES OF THE GREAT DISASTER has been dropped.

Bob Rozakis is Story Editor for FREEDOM FIGHTERS, YOUNG LOVE and a new, unrevealed title, probably on sale by August. Bob plans to send the Freedom Fighters back to Earth X, where the Nazis have regained control, with writing by Marty Pasko.

And Paul Levitz has become Story Editor for METAL MEN, KOBRA and SECRET SOCIETY OF SUPER-VILLAINS. METAL MEN will be written by Marty Pasko, as will KOBRA. SECRET SOCIETY will be written by Bob Rozakis, as of issue #5.

The announcement of the TEEN TITANS resurrection in BRAVE AND THE BOLD was somewhat premature, in that their appearance there has been delayed and Batman will appear with Wonder Woman and Catwoman in their place. However...

DC
BEGINNING A NEW EPIC OF SWORDS & SCIENCE!
30¢
A WOMAN REBEL in an ENSLAVED WORLD!
STARFIRE
© 1976, NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC.

The TEEN TITANS own magazine will be revived. Writing will be by Paul Levitz, with art by Pablo Marcos, and editing most likely by Joe Orlando.

And, the CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN strip will be the new continuing feature in SUPER TEAM FAMILY. Writing on this strip will also be by Paul Levitz, with art by newcomer James Sherman and probably Jack Abel.

This summer will see two one-shots (and possibly more); SUPER DC GIANT #27, which will feature STRANGE FLYING SAUCER ADVENTURES is to be edited by Nelson Bridwell. The other is a BINKY issue, with unpublished inventory material, edited by Joe Orlando.

SHAZAM! will become giant-sized and bi-monthly, with at least one new story announced thus far, that ISIS introduction.

Speaking of ISIS, the first issue should appear by late summer, and may appear more than bi-monthly. Ric Estrada and Wally Wood will do the art and Denny O'Neil will be writer-editor.

THE SUPERMAN FAMILY has been promoted to eight times a year.

Bernard Kashdan has left his post as Vice President-Business Manager to head another Warner Brothers licensing firm.

Upcoming dollar books include SUPERBOY featuring the LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES, and SUPERMAN RACES THE FLASH.

Superman of Earth 2 will be appearing in a forthcoming ALL STAR.

Tony Isabella has done some work for National, among which is the second half of a Marty Pasko FREEDOM FIGHTERS two-parter and a KORAK story for TARZAN FAMILY. The KORAK story was drawn by James Sherman and Noly Zamora.

Elliot Maggin will be taking over as writer on HERCULES UNBOUND, and on the PELLUCIDAR strip in the all-new TARZAN FAMILY.

Pablo Marcos and John Calnan will be doing an issue of WORLD'S FINEST.

Bob Layton is inking an issue of CLAW THE UNCONQUERED.

Batman will be meeting The Black Spider in a story by Gerry Conway.

David Kraft will be finishing up the TARZAN THE UNTAMED adaptation begun by Gerry Conway. Following that will be a Denny O'Neil treatment of TARZAN THE TERRIBLE.

Vince Colletta is inking an Irv Novick JOKER story, a SECRET SOCIETY OF SUPER-VILLAINS tale and a FREEDOM FIGHTERS adventure.

Marty Pasko is a mighty busy man these days. He's currently at work on: a two-part SUPERMAN story, a three-part JOKER vehicle, a JLA three-parter, a two-part WONDER WOMAN, and a FREEDOM FIGHTERS two-parter, not to mention a KOBRA story.

That DC SUPER STARS issue that was to feature Aquaman (#4) will appear instead as issue #7.

Marvel News

Gerry Conway's takeover as editor corresponds with a flurry of activity in the new book department. Gerry himself has created and written a new monthly color book called THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN (tentatively, at least). The book will be tied in with the continuity being furthered in THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN and MARVEL TEAM-UP, so Gerry will be plotting with Len Wein and Bill Mantlo so that continuity details remain consistent.

Roy Thomas has a new project on the drawing boards also. Entitled WHAT IF...?, this new 50¢ giant will contain imaginary stories involving all the Marvel characters, and what would have happened had some detail of their careers had been different. An example is what would have happened had Spider-Man been allowed to join the FF. Roy will be the writer-editor. He also has a number of other new series in mind, but it's too early to talk about them.

Marvel and George Lucas are working out a contract in which Marvel would adapt Lucas' forthcoming science fiction film, STAR WARS, into comic form. Roy Thomas and Howard Chaykin would be the story-art team. Marvel also has plans to adapt LOGAN'S RUN into comics, with script by Marv Wolfman.

Jim Shooter will be scripting the final issue of MARVEL CHILLERS to feature the TIGRA strip. After that Roy Thomas will take it over, although what plans he has for it have yet to be finalized.

Larry Lieber has replaced John Warner as editor of British reprints so that John can devote more of his time to the black and white books. Larry is also the new art director on SPIDEY SUPER STORIES.

Jim Starlin has left the WARLOCK strip (of his own volition). No artist or writer has been chosen as yet.

Jack Kirby is now writing and drawing the BLACK PANTHER strip in JUNGLE ACTION.

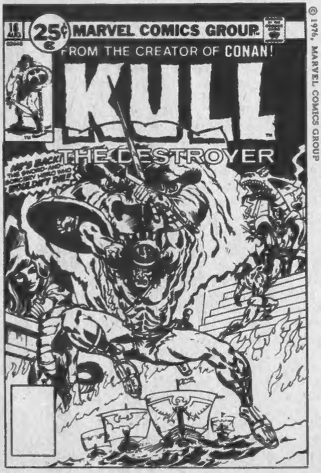
Marv Wolfman has done an issue of THE GHOST RIDER, after which Gerry Conway will take over as writer, and Gil Kane will be artist.

John Byrne will be doing a DAREDEVIL-GHOST RIDER crossover and will be new artist on DAREDEVIL. Bob Brown has had to give up the book due to illness and is also occupied with a new bi-monthly.

An issue of CONAN was a reprint because of trouble with Steve Gan's inking... Gan is no longer doing the inking. Henceforth The Tribe will do that.

Don McGregor will be writing the DEATHLOK strip in ASTONISHING TALES, which will be pencilled by Rich Buckler and inked by Keith Pollard. Deathlok will be coming to the '70s to prevent his own death and rebirth.

Marv Wolfman's first issue of POWER MAN will be drawn by Pat Gabriele, and then Lee Elias and Sam Grainger will take over. Chemistro will be returning and Luke Cage will also meet The Cheshire Cat and his boss, Big Brother.



Roy Thomas and Howie Chaykin are working on some SOLOMON KANE stories for one of the color try-out books.

George Perez and Don Perlin will be drawing THE INHUMANS, with Doug Moench setting the tone of the series as "cosmic space-opera."

John Buscema will be doing a couple of issues of FANTASTIC FOUR, after which Rich Buckler will return as regular artist.

Gene Colan has been designated regular artist on HOWARD THE DUCK. Howie will meet the Defenders in #6 and then will get involved in a multi-issue political campaign, which has the tentative title of "The Manchurian Duck."

Bill Mantlo will be writing THE CHAMPIONS; Roy Thomas is the new RED SONJA scripter for MARVEL FEATURE, as of #6.

New inking assignments: Steve Gan on SKULL THE SLAYER; Terry Austin will do ocassional inks on CAPTAIN MARVEL and MARVEL PRESENTS-GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY; Jack Abel is back on IRON MAN; IRON FIST will feature Mike Esposito inks; Abel will ink MASTER OF KUNG FU; Mike Royer will ink THE ETERNALS; Frank Chiaramonte will ink WAR OF THE WORLDS in AMAZING ADVENTURES; and Joe Sinnott will ink THE AVENGERS.

Doug Moench is working on two issues of MARVEL SPOTLIGHT: One features the SUB-MARINER villain TIGER SHARK, the other BLACK JACK TARR from MASTER OF KUNG FU, in an offbeat tale concerning the women in Black Jack's past.

Omega will speak for the first time in OMEGA #4.

New art assignments: Keith Pollard and Klaus Janson will do BLACK GOLIATH; John Byrne and Pablo Marcos will be doing SUPER-VILLAIN TEAM-UP; and Gil Kane and Steve Gan will do the new NOVA book.

Herb Trimpe is now doing the Jason-Alex series in PLANET OF THE APES regularly. Coming up between the second last and the final APES adaptations will be a two-issue fill-in which ties up loose ends called QUEST FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES and is by Doug Moench, Rico Rival and Alfredo Alcala.

KULL will be involved in Atlantis subplots in his newly revived color book by Doug Moench.

KA-ZAR will broaden his horizons by leaving the Savage Land and facing the Quarllians, a band of menacing fellows who ride flying sharks). In addition, Ka-Zar's new sidekick, Zartros The Gnome, will be introduced.

MASTER OF KUNG FU will be featuring a big, six-part return of Fu Manchu in a new incarnation, much closer to the pulp version, yet less of a stereotype and more sympathetic. Each part will be narrated by a different cast member: The first will be by Shang Chi, then Liko, Nayland Smith (via his diary), Reston, Black Jack Tarr, then Fu Manchu himself. By the end of the series there should be a big change in Shang Chi's character.

Howard Chaykin is preparing a color issue of DOMINIC FORTUNE for a try-out book.

MARVEL COMICS GROUP
MARVEL SPOTLIGHT ON
THE MOON KNIGHT
YOU ARE BUT A PAWN IN COMMIES LORDS MASTER PLAN!
AND A PAWN IS DOOMED TO DIE!
© 1976, MARVEL COMICS GROUP

MARVEL COMICS GROUP
CAPTAIN AMERICA
SPECIAL BICENTENNIAL ISSUE!
ON THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES
AMERICA WILL DIE!
AND ONLY CAPTAIN AMERICA CAN SAVE IT!
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FOURTEEN YEARS AGO THIS MONTH:

TCR #9 (4-20-64, Jerry Bails, 2p): The Thing to have a romace with a blind girl in FANTASTIC FOUR; Joe Certa has given J'Onn J'Onzz plastic surgery (a new nose); and JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY will soon feature Thor, TALES TO ASTONISH, Ant-Man and STRANGE TALES, solo Human Torch stories.

TWELVE YEARS AGO THIS MONTH:

TCR #24 (4-64, Jerry Bails, 9p) Assistant Editor Nelson Bridwell reports proofreading the upcoming "Crisis On Earth III"; Robin-Aqualad-Kid Flash to team-up for the first time in BRAVE AND THE BOLD; Alfred's "death" is portended; STRANGE TALES ANNUAL #3 will be issued as MARVEL TALES ANNUAL #1; Don and Maggie Thompson to publish three "How To Publish An Amateur Magazine" pamphlets; Otto Binder is back writing SUPERMAN stories.

NINE YEARS AGO THIS MONTH:

ON THE DRAWING BOARD #12 (TCR #59) (4-67, Bob Schoenfeld and Dave Kaler, 12p) NoMAN and DYNAMO cancelled; all fears that Harvey's SPIRIT #3 and FIGHTING AMERICAN #2 would never be published are belayed; Jack Schiff retires; WHAM-O GIANT COMICS goes to press; King Comics switches their distribution system (3 comics in a plastic bag for 29¢) to the coloring book circuit; King also announces new adventure strip, CAPTAIN KATE; Julius Schwartz to edit new book, SPECTRE #1 (supposed to contain back-up JSA member adventures) and relinquishes HAWKMAN to George Kashdan; Kashdan to edit new book, BOMBA THE JUNGLE BOY; CBS to telecast new SUPERMAN-AQUAMAN HOUR OF ADVENTURE.

Warren News

Louise Jones has been named Senior Editor at Warren and William Mohalley has been appointed Art Production Manager. Congratulations!

Rich Corben has returned to do some new work for Warren including covers as well as some interior stories.

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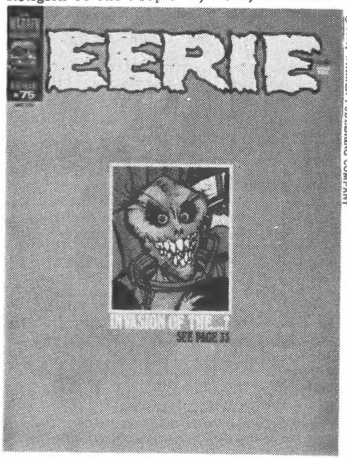
VAMPIRELLA (52, July). Featuring in this issue: "Dr. Righter's Circus Of Horrors" by Bill DuBay and Gonzalo Mayo; "Opium Is The Religion Of The People" by Gerry Boudreau and Auraleon; "Blackbirds" by Esteban Maroto; "House At Blood Corner" by Boudreau and Ramon Torrents; and "The Segerson Experiment" by Boudreau and Zesar. The cover is by Sanjulian. (5/4)



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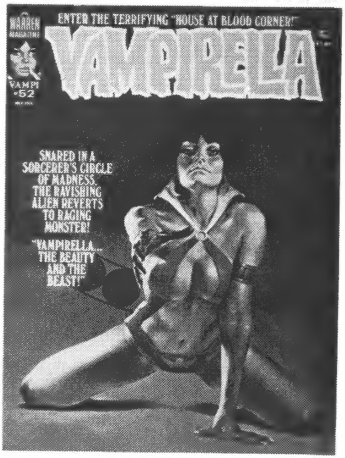
CREEPY (81, July). In this issue: "Brannigan's Gremlins" by Bill DuBay and Luis Bermejo; "Stake Out" by Gerry Boudreau and Jose Ortiz; "Close Shave" by Roger McKenzie and Martin Salvador; "Uncle Zorro" by DuBay and John Severin; "Scruffy's Gargoyle" by DuBay and Leo Sanchez; and "Bilicar And The Molywambles" by Steve Clement and Isidro Mones. The cover is by Ken Kelley. (5/27)


WARREN
MAGAZINES
VAMPI
#52
ENTER THE TERRIFYING "HOUSE AT BLOOD CORNER!"
VAMPIRELLA
SNARED IN A SORCERER'S CIRCLE OF MADNESS, THE RAVISHING ALIEN REVERTS TO RAGING MONSTER!
"VAMPIRELLA... THE BEAUTY AND THE BEAST!"

Gold Key News

Gold Key will publish a Walt Disney WINNIE THE POOH book for release in October of this year.

Coming Comics

Walt Disney's DONALD DUCK (173, July). New stories. (5/6)

WOODY WOODPECKER (151, July). New stories. (5/6)

Walt Disney's CHIP 'N' DALE (40, July). New stories. (5/6)

Walt Disney's MICKEY MOUSE (164, July). 13 pages of new story, 12 pages of reprints. (5/6)

PORKY PIG (68, July). New stories. (5/6)

MAGNUS, ROBOT FIGHTER (44, August). A new story!!! (5/6)

GRIMM'S GHOST STORIES (31, July). All new stories. (5/13)

THE INSPECTOR (10, July). New stories. (5/13)

YOSEMITE SAM AND BUGS BUNNY (37, July). New stories written by Mark Evanier. (5/13)

WALT DISNEY SHOWCASE (35, August). This one features GOOFY reprints. (5/13)

UFO FLYING SAUCERS (11, August). All new stories. (5/13)

Walt Disney's DAISY AND DONALD (17, July). New stories. (5/20)

TUROK, SON OF STONE (104, July). New adventures of Turok and Andar by Paul Newman and Alberto Giolitti. (5/20)

Walt Disney's HUEY, DEWEY AND LOUIE (39, July). New stuff. (5/20)

Walt Disney's SCAMP (30, July). New stories. (5/20)

LITTLE LULU (233, July). New stories. (5/20)

THE PINK PANTHER (36, July). New stories. (5/20)

STAR TREK (38, July). New story featuring the Enterprise and friends. (5/20)

BEEP BEEP, THE ROAD RUNNER (58, July). New stories. (5/20)

BUGS BUNNY (174, July). New stories. (5/27)

TWEETY AND SYLVESTER (59, July). New stories. (5/27)

WALT DISNEY'S COMICS AND STORIES (430, July). 14 pages of new material and 11 pages of reprints. (5/27)

Walt Disney's UNCLE SCROOGE (130, July). Carl Barks reprints. (5/27)

THE TWILIGHT ZONE (71, July). Entirely reprinted from an old issue, including the cover. (5/27)

ANDY PANDA (14, July). New stories. (5/27)

DAFFY DUCK (102, July). New stories. (5/27)

RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT! (63, July). New stories. (5/27)

SPACE FAMILY ROBINSON LOST IN SPACE (48, August). New stories by Gaylord DuBois and Dan Spiegle. (5/27)

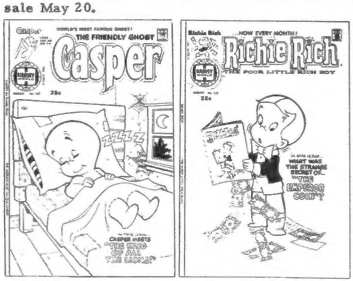
KK GIVEAWAYS (417) LITTLE LULU and (418) THE PINK PANTHER.

Harvey

COMING COMICS (August): SPOOKY SPOOKTOWN #64, CASPER #187, RICHIE RICH #144, and RICHIE RICH SUCCESS #69 (35¢), on sale May 6.

RICHIE RICH AND CASPER #13, DEVIL KIDS #77, RICHIE RICH JACKPOTS #24, RICHIE RICH DIAMONDS #25 (35¢), on sale May 13.

SAD SACK AND SARGE #120, RICHIE RICH PROFITS #13, RICHIE RICH CASH #13 and RICHIE RICH GOLD AND SILVER #7 (35¢), on sale May 20.



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Et Al

Jim Steranko's latest MEDIASCENE ($1.50, Supergraphics, Box 445, Wyomissing, PA 19610), #17, mentions that FICTION ILLUSTRATED #3 will feature CHANDLER, a new detective visual novel by Steranko.

Stan Lee has been definitely signed to appear at Chicago's Nostalgia '76 convention at the Playboy Towers Hotel, August 6 - 8.

Information on the convention can be had by addressing an inquiry to Nostalgia, c/o Larry Charet, 3816 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago, IL 60625.

The GAZETTE #221 was delayed for two weeks because of a hassle getting proofs from the Chicago Tribune-New York News Syndicate. It was mailed the week of April 5.

Archie

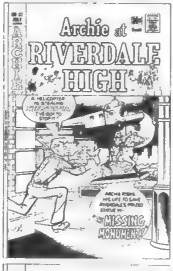
I thoroughly winged last month's schedule, so I omitted some and included others that weren't supposed to be there. Omitted were BETTY & VERONICA SPECTACULAR #246, SABRINA #32, LITTLE ARCHIE #107, EVERYTHING'S ARCHIE #48 and JOSIE #89. Listed erroneously: REGGIE & ME #88, ARCHIE #254, ARCHIE'S TV LAUGHOUT #41, BETTY AND ME #76.

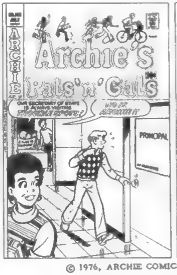
COMING COMICS: (All July) April 27 - ARCHIE'S PALS 'N' GALS #106, JUGHEAD'S JOKES #49, ARCHIE AND ME #84, ARCHIE'S JOKEBOOK #222, BETTY AND VERONICA #247, PEP COMICS #315.

May 4 - LITTLE ARCHIE #108, REGGIE AND ME #88, LAUGH COMICS #304, LIFE WITH ARCHIE #171, JUGHEAD #254.

May 11 - ARCHIE'S TV LAUGHOUT #41, THAT WILKIN BOY #37, BETTY AND ME #76, ARCHIE #254.

May 18 - ARCHIE AT RIVERDALE HIGH #37, EVERYTHING'S ARCHIE #49.





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Charlton Coming Comics

MY ONLY LOVE (7, August). (5/4)

SECRETS OF YOUNG BRIDES (7, August). (5/4)

GHOST MANOR (30, August). (5/4)

GHOSTLY TALES (122, August). Cover is by Steve Ditko. (5/4)

JUST MARRIED (112, August). (5/4)

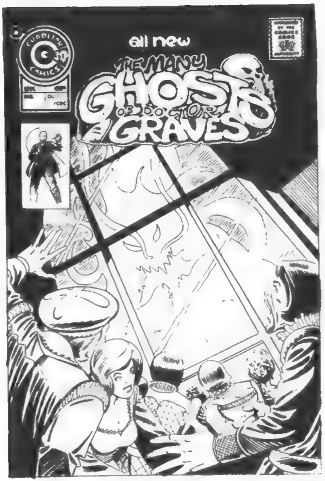
SARGE SNORKEL (15, August). (5/4)

LOVE DIARY (100, August). (5/11)

I LOVE YOU (119, August). (5/11)

THE FLINTSTONES (47, August). (5/11)

SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN (2, August). (5/11)

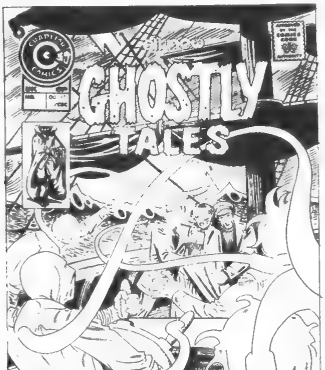


EMERGENCY (2, August). (5/11)

FIGHTIN' ARMY (125, August). (5/18)

BILLY THE KID (119, August). (5/18)

THE MANY GHOSTS OF DR. GRAVES (58, August). The cover is by Steve Ditko. (5/18)



GHOSTLY HAUNTS (51, August). (5/18)

SCOOBY DOO (9, August). (5/18)

VALLEY OF THE DINOSAURS (9, August). (5/18)

BARNEY AND BETTY (21, August). (5/25)

PEBBLES AND BAMM-BAMM (34, August). (5/25)

THE PHANTOM (72, August). (5/25)

POPEYE (136, August). (5/25)

MONSTER HUNTERS (7, August). (5/25)

SCARY TALES (7, August). (5/25)

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SEVEN YEARS AGO THIS MONTH:

TCR #73 (4-69, Mark Hanerfeld, 6p) Nostalgia Press' PRINCE VALIANT book to be published January, 1970; Warren to publish a companion to CREEPY and EERIE to feature 'a witch'; Marvel to publish TOWER OF SHADOWS and CHAMBER OF DARKNESS; The Falcon to debut in CAPTAIN AMERICA; Steranko leaves Marvel; Marvel switches to new distributor; ANTHRO and ATOM & HAWKMAN cancelled; new book, FROM BEYOND, to feature seven page Deadman stories in each issue; HOUSE OF SECRETS revived with Abel (based on TCR-ed. Mark Hanerfeld); Gray Morrow, Al Williamson, Mort Meskin, John Celardo and Frank Langford added to art staff at DC; high school senior named Gerard Conway contributes a large number of stories to Dick Giordano's books; Jerry DeFuccio sells some of the stories that were to make up an EC-type slick magazine to DC for their war books (stories by Severin and Crandall); Batman and Green Arrow to be revamped, Black Canary to move to Earth I.

Continuity Assoc.

Things remain busy at Continuity... Dick Giordano has done a cover for CB (CITIZEN'S BAND) BUYER'S GUIDE... Credits on new Peter Pan Record-Comic sets are as follows: CONAN (Roy Thomas, Len Wein, John Buscema and Neal Adams), BATMAN-MAN-BAT (Elliot Maggin, Cary Bates, Neal Adams and Dick Giordano), 2 SPACE: 1999 and 2 STAR TREK sets (both pencilled by Russ Heath and Dick Giordano), SUPERMAN (Adams and Giordano) and DRACULA, WOLFMAN AND FRANKENSTEIN (also Adams and Giordano). Peter Pan is also issuing some LPs with 16 page comics; plans include BATMAN, SUPERMAN and CONAN. Continuity is also doing covers for POPEYE, LAUREL AND HARDY and BUGS BUNNY LPs... Neal and Dick are doing artwork for Mego toys... Continuity is doing training slide-films for the army... A new humor magazine, INTERNATIONAL INSANITY, will contain work by Adams, Giordano, Terry Austin and Carl Potts... Sal Amendola is doing a SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN story... So is Carl Potts ... Hector Castillon is doing an EMERGENCY story... Continuity is doing a twenty pager for the SPACE: 1999 magazine and are re-doing some of the covers of the color editions of EMERGENCY and SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN... Cary Bates is doing coloring for some of the Continuity commercial work... Terry Austin is inking some Mike Grell-pencilled ATOM and BLACK CANARY stories... Neal has done another episode of SON OF GOD for NATIONAL LAMPOON.

Neal is working to get some 2000 pages of "removed" artwork from Warren Publishing's offices that are now illegally in the hands of dealers and fans. Purchasers of stolen merchandise are guilty of a crime, so watch it.

Media News

Hola, compadres... Edgar Rice Burroughs, Inc. is having a boom year. For years after its creation in 1920, ERB, Inc. was merely a sort of letter-drop custodial operation with a staff of three looking after spinoff licensing matters. Now the organization is actively into turning the ERB properties into motion pictures, TV, periodicals and stage productions. Definitely coming up are the Warner Bros. film, TARZAN OF THE APES (formerly GREYSTOKE) from a script by Robert Towne (the first film actually based on the ERB book), AT THE EARTH'S CORE based on the Pellucidar series, and THE PEOPLE THAT TIME FORGOT, as a sequel to THE LAND THAT TIME FORGOT of last year. The MARS series is also being considered for film treatment. In addition, Filmation has been given the go ahead to do a TARZAN animated show for Saturday mornings. Maybe this related visual material will boost sales for DC's ERB material... Rene Goscinny and Albert Uderzo (creators of the excellent European comic strips ASTERIX and LUCKY LUKE) have opened an animation studio and are currently working on a feature animated version of THE 12 LABORS OF ASTERIX... Larry Gelbart, who has contributed so much to the TV version of M*A*S*H, has had to step down from his co-producer post for the coming season. Let us hope that he is still able to contribute at the writing end, at least, and that his absence (due to exhaustion) from the producer's side won't mean the series will lose its quality... For you Saturday morning fans, here are some of the new schedules. NBC axed everything except LAND OF THE LOST and THE PINK PANTHER, the latter expanding to 90 minutes, the longest kid show ever. They're adding a new character, Mr. Jaws. New shows include WOODY WOODPECKER (with theatrical Walter Lantz cartoons not shown on TV before), McDUFF, a live show about a vet and his dog, and THE MONSTER SQUAD, about a wax museum curator who can bring Frankenstein, Dracula and the Werewolf to life. At CBS, aside from the aforementioned TARZAN, LORD OF THE JUNGLE cartoon, there's ARK II from Filmation, CLUE CLUB from Hanna-Barbera plus WAY-OUT GAMES, a live-action kid game show. In addition, they've added a half hour to the BUGS BUNNY-ROAD RUNNER hour, TWEETY & SYLVESTER, meaning an hour and a half of Warner Bros. cartoons!... By the time you read this it'll be over, but I'd just like to say that I hope McNAUGHTON'S DAUGHTER comes back next season, because Susan Clark is excellent. And maybe they can call it McNAUGHTON if it does... M*A*S*H fans will have to wait until it debuts to see if its any good (because Monty Hall is producing), but McLean Stevenson has been named to star in a half hour sitcom for NBC in the fall, THE PRIME OF LIFE. I believe it's about McLean's trials and tribulations in the job market... A personal aside for Paul Simon, re, FIFTY WAYS TO LEAVE YOUR LOVER: We know who Jack, Stan and Roy are, but who's Gus??? - Rona Blabbit

Late addition and bad news for the comics industry: The added sales push having WONDER WOMAN in prime time won't occur this fall either. ABC has cancelled SWISS FAMILY ROBINSON, ON THE ROCKS, GOOD HEAVENS, THE ROOKIES, MARCUS WELBY, HARRY O, ALMOST ANYTHING GOES, S.W.A.T., and BERT D'ANGELO/SUPERSTAR. The new shows are BILL COSBY SHOW (variety, Sunday), CAPTAIN & TENNILLE SHOW (variety, Monday), NANCY WALKER SHOW (sitcom, she's a NY travel agent with whining daughter and about-to-retire naval officer husband, Tuesday), TONY RANDALL (Superior court judge sitcom from Mary Tyler Moore Prod., Tuesday), either a continuation of RICH MAN, POOR MAN or FAMILY (Tuesday), MOST WANTED (Robert Stack homicide detective show, Thursday), HOLMES & YOYO (a detective and his robot partner, Saturday), MR. T & TINA (Pat Morita and Susan Blanchard in another HAPPY DAYS spinoff), CHARLIE'S ANGELS (Farrah Fawcett-Majors, Jaclyn Smith and Kate Jackson as private detectives), and FEATHER AND FATHER (Harold Gould as a former con-man and Stephanie Powers as his defense attorney daughter, also Saturday). The new shows fit into the vacated time periods with no other schedule changes. (See page 27)

The Writer's Side

Q: DO YOU FEEL AN AVERSION TO HAVING CHARACTERS KILLED IN YOUR STORIES?

JIM SHOOTER: I feel an aversion to doing anything that will hurt my book. I think that based on that I would base my judgement.

JOHN D. WARNER: Yeah, if it gets out of hand. I think if you have death too often it loses its effect, its drama. I think that if you use it so often that it loses any meaning, then it's just kind of an unnecessary bummer. However, it can also be a very effective storytelling device as an emotional grab for the reader at which point I wouldn't hesitate to use it. You just have to balance it.

DOUG MOENCH: Now I do, because I feel it's been overdone. There have been maybe, in the last fifteen stories (with the exception of one particular story), I think there's been only one death. It's a reactionary thing to so many deaths, so many that I did, which lessens the impact of death. Death is used to get across an emotional impact and when writers realize that they say, "OK, let's have a death here and a death there," and all this impact, but it boomerangs and it dilutes the impact. Rather than multiplying it by ten it lessens it by one-tenth. That's why I now save up my deaths, so to speak, for important instances to get across the true emotional impacts.

MARY SKRENES: No... If it's realistic, they go. If they're born to die, they go.

DENNY O'NEIL: I don't like to do it gratuitously. For the sake of drama I will willingly kill characters in my story. I don't like a lot of gratuitous deaths. Whereever possible, I like to show the after effect of the death to show that life is not cheap. I try to minimize the killing. In fact, I'll never have my characters use violence without extreme provocation.

MARV WOLFMAN: The answer really depends on which book I am writing. When I write soemthing like DRACULA, whose concept is him murdering people, obviously such things have to be portrayed. However, I try to make whatever death is shown mean something. In super-hero books I do not like to show deaths and will in the future hold back from doing so unless it is vitally important to the storyline, or for dramatic reasons. The constant showing of deaths nullifies its dramatic effect unless handled with extreme care.

ARCHIE GOODWIN: Not if it's justified. And I think certain genres lend themselves to that more than others. If you're doing a war book or even a western, you'll probably run into more actual killing and death than in, say, a super-hero series. I think it's much less necessary in a super-hero series because there are so many other things you can depend on. It shouldn't be done just for a cheap cranking up of the emotions or lending extra drama to the story.

GERRY CONWAY: I don't think that it's a bad thing if it's done for a dramatic purpose and it advances the series. I thought it was a definite plus in the case of Gwen Stacy. Mary Jane had more possibilities so when Stan suggested that we kill her off I said, "Great!" I don't think there should be too much killing of characters in books, but I don't think we should be afraid of it.

DON McGREGOR: I think that death is a part of the human experience that we have to explore and that I don't think we can ignore. I think it's valid in a dramatic sense and it presents a certain sense of realism to the fantasy elements that are a necessary requirement for comics. The major objection for violence in this medium seems to be that it doesn't matter how much violence there is as long as it's not real -- as long as people don't feel it, don't react, and aren't altered in any physical and emotional sense by violence. I think there's a need for some alternative viewpoints in comics and I think that people like Steve Gerber, Steve Englehart and Jim Starlin convey some of that.

ROY THOMAS: As a general rule, yes. The Conan character is beyond my control. There has to be a certain amount of blood-letting, but I try to keep the blood-letting to a minimum. There has been entirely too much gratuitous blood-letting.

STEVE GERBER: There are standard answers to this question -- one of them being the death of a character should mean something, another one being it's OK if they don't do it in an offensive way. My feeling is that if it's right for the story, if the character's death is important to the story then the character dies. I don't believe that death is an unfit subject for comic books. I don't believe that death, as one of the realities of life, should be hidden. And I don't understand why you're asking that question.

(This column was conducted by David Finger.)

FIVE YEARS AGO THIS MONTH:

ETCETERA #3 (5-71, Paul Levitz-Paul Kupperberg, 12p) DC magazines go to 48 pages for 25¢, 64 pages for 35¢ as of June 1, Marvel to follow suit by August; DC to publish 100 page giants, marked down from 128 pages; WONDER WOMAN, TOMAHAWK and ALL-STAR WESTERN axed; TOMAHAWK resurrected; Marvel's new giants will include 8 page backups starring Dr. Strange, Iceman, Silver Surfer, etc.; MARVEL SUPER-HEROES to become an annual; MARVEL SPOTLIGHT, PREMIERE and FEATURE announced; Skywald announces HELL RIDER and SCIENCE FICTION ODYSSEY (to feature work by Fox, Ellison, Harry Harrison, Niven, Carr, Jeff Jones, Buckler, Katz and Kaluta); there's a furor over Herb Trimpe's 'quickie' art job on IRON MAN #39.

TWO YEARS AGO THIS MONTH:

TCR #106 (5-74, Street, 24p) Marvel to publish a SPIDER-MAN TREASURY; also coming up: SPIDEY SUPER STORIES; Jim Starlin leaves Marvel to work for Warren; Red Circle to revamp MADHOUSE to a mystery magazine; rumors circulate that Warren may be publishing two new titles.

Comment

The other day, Jerry commented that we don't see Mike Ploog's work in comics anymore. Sadly, I was not surprised. It seems to be the order of the day; artists and writers become established in the field, and seem to leave at the height of their popularity for other, more lucrative fields. The turnover in the last ten years is staggering. Sure, there have been many new arrivals in the industry, but the losses to advertising, commercial art, magazine art, novels and movie writing and other related fields is quite frightening. Off the top of my head, I can name quite a few people who have left the field entirely or have limited their comic book output to six stories per year or less: Barry Smith, Neal Adams, Gardner Fox, Mike Ploog, John Broome, Murphy Anderson, Mike Sekowsky, Bill Ely, C. C. Beck, Bernard Sachs, Doug Wildey, Howie Chaykin, Jim Steranko, Gil Kane, Alex Toth, Arnold Drake, Nick Cardy, Russ Manning, John Severin, Gray Morrow, Frank Thorne, Jeff Jones, Mike Fleisher, Berni Wrightson, Joe Giella, Bruno Premiani, Wayne Boring, Al Plastino, Ruben Moreira, Fred Ray and Jerry Siegel, to name a few. A certain number of these people retired, but an alarming number of them are still active, and could still be doing comics.

Personal reasons force some to leave comics -- not living close enough to New York, illness, inability to take the deadline pressures -- but, evidently, certain artists and writers merely fell out of favor with their bosses over money or something, and would probably come back if given the right offer. For whatever reasons, people like Wally Wood, Ramona Fradon, Lee Elias and George Evans have returned to comics in the recent past after having been out of it for awhile. I have a vastly unprovable theory that comics sales are directly related with the people doing them, and that sales drops for the industry as a whole coincide generally with the retirement or departure of old pros. This leads to a vicious circle: The artists with experience want more than comics can deliver or pay and leave the field; comics are taken over by less experienced people; quality drops, sales drop; the less experienced want more money than the industry can pay, they leave; etc., etc. Can the cycle be stopped?

Comic artists and writers are certainly not paid slave wages any longer, but still, the scale is not as high as most other comparable jobs. Someone who can work fast, on deadline and with professional quality, can probably earn a good living, but there are those who work slowly, and must hold down other jobs to make ends meet. Are the contributions of these people to be lost? Or is there something that could promote a better relationship between the employee and the company?

Obviously, the return of original artwork to the artist, who can then sell it to a collector, is an incentive. But writers, specifically freelancers, usually have little security unless they turn out that next story. Unless they draw pensions or are involved with some company retirement plan, or until the resale of used comic book scripts becomes popular, there seems to be only one major lacking in the comic book field that seems feasible and it was spotlighted recently with Siegel and Shuster's demands that they receive something for creating SUPERMAN. The royalty-residual program for creators of strips, already prevalent in TV, movies and comic strips, seems to be the answer.

To be sure, most new books today seem either to be revivals of old characters -- which would result in no need for royalties in cases where the creators are either retired or long-gone -- or ideas formed in committee, by staff members such as publisher, editor and sometimes writer. It probably precludes the payment of royalty in that case also, as staff creations are probably part of the job contract already. However, there are still instances of the writer, sometimes with the artist, coming up with an idea, presenting it to the publisher, and having it accepted. As true creator, the principle of having that fact reiterated through payment each time the character is used, seems morally required. (Whether the initial artist on a given new strip should be included as part of the creative team is a question that would need an answer. It would seem to rest upon the amount of creativity injected by that artist, i.e., character design creation.) Having this royalty based upon the book's sales would seem to be a further incentive, not only to create a thoroughly commercial and viable character and situation, but also to remain with that book to see that it remains that way or improves. To me, the greatest problem with many books is that they lack overall identity because of the great artist-writer turnover, and this would tend to instigate less desire to do different books.

Obviously, corporate officials frown on the idea of screwing up the opportunities of licensing characters or using them in whatever fashion they see fit by awarding creators creative responsibility or say-so. However, compromise in this area could make the plan advantageous to the publishers also. Currently, comic books are pretty much a closed market, and even if a person has the greatest idea in the world, there's little chance he can sell it on a mass basis. The acceptance of free-lance ideas by the publishers can only upgrade the content of today's comics, if only because of percentages. Conceivably, bidding wars over new creations by people who have created successful titles could cause even more incentive for creators.

Of course, cases like THE SPIRIT, wherein the creator retains copyright, cannot be expected -- the other fields mentioned that do pay royalties retain copyright for the parent companies in most cases. But one parallel with THE SPIRIT could be that

(Continued on page 18)

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- ☐ THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #159
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- ☐ BLACK GOLIATH #4
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #200
- ☐ THE CHAMPIONS #7
- ☐ CONAN THE BARBARIAN #65
- ☐ DAREDEVIL #136
- ☐ THE DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU #25
- ☐ THE DEFENDERS #37
- ☐ DOCTOR STRANGE #17
- ☐ THE ETERNALS #2
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #172
- ☐ THE GHOST RIDER #19
- ☐ THE INCREDIBLE HULK #202
- ☐ THE INHUMANS #6
- ☐ THE INVADERS #8
- ☐ IRON FIST #6
- ☐ IRON MAN #89
- ☐ KA-ZAR #17
- ☐ KID COLT OUTLAW #208
- ☐ KULL THE DESTROYER #16
- ☐ MARVEL ADVENTURE #5
- ☐ MARVEL CHILLERS #6
- ☐ MARVEL CLASSICS COMICS #5
- ☐ MARVEL CLASSICS COMICS #6
- ☐ MARVEL CLASSICS COMICS #7
- ☐ MARVEL CLASSICS COMICS #8
- ☐ MARVEL DOUBLE FEATURE #17
- ☐ MARVEL PRESENTS #6
- ☐ MARVEL PREMIERE #31 (Woodgod)
- ☐ MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #29 (Moon Knight)
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #70
- ☐ MARVEL TEAM-UP #48
- ☐ MARVEL TREASURY EDITION #10 (Thor)
- ☐ MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #18
- ☐ MASTER OF KUNG FU #43
- ☐ PLANET OF THE APES #22
- ☐ POWER MAN #34
- ☐ SON OF SATAN #5
- ☐ SPIDEY SUPER STORIES #18
- ☐ SUPER-VILLAIN TEAM-UP #7
- ☐ THOR #250
- ☐ TOMB OF DRACULA #47
- ☐ TWO-GUN KID #131
- ☐ WARLOCK #14
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- ☐ THE X-MEN #100

Charlton

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- ☐ GHOSTLY TALES #122
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- ☐ JUST MARRIED #112
- ☐ LOVE DIARY #100
- ☐ THE MANY GHOSTS OF DR. GRAVES #58
- ☐ MONSTER HUNTERS #7
- ☐ MY ONLY LOVE #7
- ☐ PEBBLES AND BAMM BAMM #34
- ☐ THE PHANTOM #72
- ☐ POPEYE #136
- ☐ SARGE SNORKEL #15
- ☐ SCARY TALES #7
- ☐ SCOOBY DOO #9
- ☐ SECRETS OF YOUNG BRIDES #7
- ☐ SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN #2
- ☐ VALLEY OF THE DINOSAURS #9

National

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- ☐ BATMAN #278
- ☐ DC SPECIAL #23 (3 Musketeers)
- ☐ DC SUPER STARS #6 (Space)
- ☐ DETECTIVE COMICS #462
- ☐ THE FLASH #243
- ☐ G. I. COMBAT #193
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- ☐ HERCULES UNBOUND #6
- ☐ HOUSE OF MYSTERY #244
- ☐ HOUSE OF SECRETS #141
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- ☐ STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES #201
- ☐ SUPERMAN #302
- ☐ THE SUPERMAN FAMILY #178
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- ☐ TARZAN #252
- ☐ THE WITCHING HOUR #65
- ☐ WONDER WOMAN #225

Warren

- ☐ CREEPY #81
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National Lampoon

- ☐ NATIONAL LAMPOON #75 (Satire)

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- ☐ MAGNUS ROBOT FIGHTER #44
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- ☐ PORKY PIG #68
- ☐ RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT #63
- ☐ SCAMP #30
- ☐ SPACE FAMILY ROBINSON Etc. #48
- ☐ STAR TREK #38
- ☐ TUROK, SON OF STONE #164
- ☐ TWEETY AND SYLVESTER #59
- ☐ THE TWILIGHT ZONE #71
- ☐ UFO FLYING SAUCERS #11
- ☐ UNCLE SCROOGE #130
- ☐ WALT DISNEY'S COMICS AND STORIES #430
- ☐ WALT DISNEY SHOWCASE #35 (Goofy)
- ☐ WOODY WOODPECKER #151
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We discovered, to our sorrow, that the demands of working in this industry are such that, without monetary compensation, few pros had the time to devote to the project.

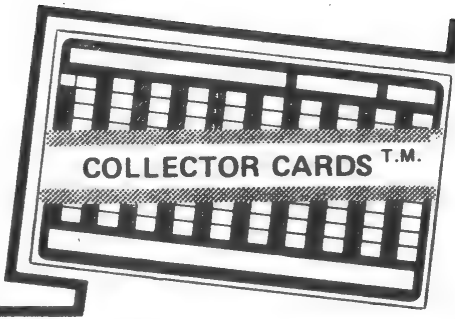
In addition, the labor unions elected to strike the Commodore Hotel, which was to be the site of the conclave. The hotel, already verging on bankruptcy, will likely be shut down long before the May 28-31 exposition dates. There's frankly no time to relocate.

So we're throwing in one rather sweaty, unsalvageable towel. For now, at any rate.

Every almighty dollar we've taken in---for tickets, for dealers' tables---will be refunded posthaste.

And as for we pros whose lofty notion this exposition was: we intend to spend the next year thanking the fans and colleagues who did contribute their time and effort to the cause and learning how to be greedy ourselves.

Au revoir, pilgrim.



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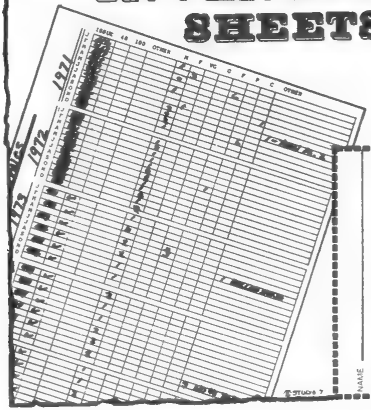

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the originator stays with his strip for its duration, ensuring its quality because he does have a stake in it. Also, those artists and writers would have no excuse about saving their life's-work creation for some shadowy hope of self-publication. And it possibly will keep the many talented people around from taking those keyline paste-up and ad layout jobs with the local shopper. Wouldn't that be nice? - Andy Hildebrand

EIGHT YEARS AGO THIS MONTH:

OTDB #66 (4-68, Mark Hanerfeld, 6p) Rocke Mastroserio, longtime Charlton artist, dies March 4; BLONDIE to become TV series with Pat Harty, Will Hutchins and Jim Backus; BATMAN to replace AQUAMAN in cartoon TV show; THE SILVER SURFER #1 to appear in giant size; a SPIDER-MAN daily and Sunday strip is to be offered by Lee and Romita; Gold Key tests the 15¢ comic book in selected metropolitan areas; Russ Manning leaves Gold Key to do TARZAN strip; new GK books: WALT DISNEY DIGEST, UFO FLYING SAUCERS, TIGER GIRL and LAND OF THE GIANTS; Bill Parente named editor of Warren; King announces there won't be any more King comics; PLASTIC MAN cancelled, BAT LASH announced; Reed Crandall returns the first Dick Giordano BLACKHAWK script, Pat Boyette receives it with a short deadline; Dick Giordano's new book has title change from 'ADVENTURES INTO THE UNKNOWN to UNKNOWN WORLDS' (both ACG titles that DC acquired); Jack Miller 'to kill off Doc Magnus' and places 'emphasis... on Diana Prince' in WONDER WOMAN; Red Tornado 'to return' in JLA; Cain to appear as narrator in HOUSE OF MYSTERY; 'Fans Marvin Wolfman and Len Wein have turned pro.' First scripts to appear: BLACKHAWK, HOUSE OF MYSTERY and a joint effort on TEEN TITANS; a companion book to the yet-to-be-published CAPTAIN ACTION, G.I. JOE, is contemplated.

THREE YEARS AGO THIS MONTH:

TCR #96 (4-73, Paul Levitz, 24p) CRAZY becomes a magazine; Englehart, Marie Severin and Trimpe doing PHANTOM OF THE OPERA for SUPERNATURAL THRILLERS in two parts; SPECTRE to return as lead in ADVENTURE; new Deadman series scripted by Arnold Drake 'remains in the works'; jungle book (RIMA) to come from Joe Kubert; Goodwin'and Simonson's Manhunter to appear in DETECTIVE; PREZ #1 released; E-MAN announced.

ONE YEAR AGO THIS MONTH:

TCR (118, Street, 24p) Superman and Spider-Man to appear in the same comic; Marv Wolfman succeeds Len Wein as Marvel Editor; Jack Kirby leaves DC to go back to Marvel; a "Marvel TV Special" will appear at Christmas, 1975; SPIDER-MAN movie announced; INHUMANS, CHAMPIONS and STAR HAWK & THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY announced; as are IRON FIST, ADVENTURES OTPOTA, THE SCARECROW, SON OF SATAN, BLACK GOLIATH and HOWARD THE DUCK; Gerry Conway's books kept under wraps at DC; Charlton to do SPACE: 1999, E-MAN cancelled; Atlas announces MAN-MONSTER to get own book; INVADERS #1 appears; Otto Soglow, LITTLE KING artist, dies April 3.

TCR Mailboat

GENE KEHOE, Rt. 3, Waterloo, IA 50701: From his recent comments, I get the impression that Mike feels that Marvel and DC comics are both exactly the same -- bad. Anyone who feels that way apparently isn't reading the current comics very carefully. True, Marvel's "straight" super-hero titles are similar to DC comics, with the only differences being that Marvels are generally better drawn and their heroes more introspective. Where Marvel rises above the sea of mediocrity is in their line of comics outside the straight super-hero genre. WARLOCK, DR. STRANGE, TOMB OF DRACULA, HOWARD THE DUCK, CAPTAIN MARVEL, DEATHLOK, MASTER OF KUNG FU and a few others collectively feature outstanding artwork, imaginative fantasy and science fiction, human conflict, humor, pathos, etc. Relevance as you perceive it has nothing to do with it. The talented young artists and writers at Marvel have really breathed life into a stagnating field. With many people inside the industry predicting the death of comics, I'd like to see a little more vocal support for the excellent material that is coming out of the industry before we lose it all.

(Your impression is not the one I wish to communicate. All comics are not bad, and I never even expressed a preference for either group, although I probably have one. It just seemed that the 'relevance' bit needed to be pointed out as what it was, an attempt to get some media coverage to make more of the 'cultured' slobs believe that comics are an art form -- and it didn't. For all the stuff I read about comics growing up, I never detected any less of a patronizing attitude among the non-comic readers, and, as a whole, despite some glowing exceptions, the relevant books were a bore to read. Brian West of Houston, TX wrote and complained that I had been completely wrong and that the relevant (or human interest) stories were far superior. I'm sorry, but I read comics for story, and not well-intentioned propaganda, heavy-handedly thrown in my face at the expense of any plot. I'm really not that impressed with the super-realistic comic either, especially when the main message is depression. I'm insecure enough without reading it in comics, too.

There are certainly many fine new additions to the comics industry and they should get praised when they deserve it. I just wish that the industry offered enough incentives for the older pros to stay in it, and enough money so that people like Lee Elias, Frank Robbins and Curt Swan could afford to ink their own stuff, and not have it destroyed by assemby-line inking. What I intended by my Marvel-DC comparison was not blanket indictment of all of them as bad, but rather a lament that DC seems to be taking on the Marvel style, and vice versa. MT)

SCOTT TAYLOR, 103 Markham, Portland, TX 78374: Your zine is really good. It supplies a beautiful cover, news, a checklist, cover proofs, etc. I have a few questions, however. For one thing, you are constantly mentioning KK Giveaways from Gold Key. Just what is a KK GA and where does one get

a copy? (As a collector of LOST IN SPACE I am very interested in finding this out.) Secondly, how does a colorist do his job? And last, how do you obtain your cover art? If it's donated, perhaps you'll ask about some work by Dave Cockrum, Joe Staton, Neal Adams, or Dick Giordano. I would very much like to see future covers of the Legion of Super-Heroes, The X-Men, Wonder Woman or Metal Men. I'd also like to see more photos such as the one of Wonder Woman a few months ago. How about it: The Bionic couple in action, WW's movies, the upcoming Sheena, Superman and Spidey movies! Think about it!

(We're thinking. The thing is, we're not on any publicity mailing lists and we don't get stills, so the only way we ever run photos is when another magazine runs them and we copy them from there. By the way, Jerry Iger, owner of the Sheena character, tells us that the movie people never got permission from him to make a Sheena film, so that may never come out.

KK Giveaways used to (and still may) go under the name of MARCH OF COMICS, and when I was just a wee broth of a lad, our local shoestores gave them away to customers. I haven't seen a store that did that in at least fifteen years, so where they can be had is a question I cannot answer.

A colorist receives silver prints (photostat copies on special paper) which he colors with special paint similar to water colors or dyes. He colors it just as you would, and these proofs are then sent to color separators in Sparta, Illinois (or wherever they're printed). Most errors are made there.

Covers are donated. The artists you mention are very busy all the time, and very difficult to get for covers. We will take your cover subjects under advisement. MT)

A Letter from the Editors

As usual, little space to talk, but I'd like to mention that our current circulation is 4600 and rising, and that accordingly, we have raised our ad rates by a couple of bucks. #129 is sold out, so if you missed it, try a comic shop near you.

This issue begins a new feature that will look back at past TCR issues, the big news items and the stuff that never happened. I love doing it because it's fun, so tell me if you like it and we'll continue to do it! Mike

FOUR YEARS AGO THIS MONTH:

ETC. & TCR #84 (4-72, Paul Levitz, 18p) William Gaines named advisor at NPP; NEW GODS and FOREVER PEOPLE cancelled despite being 'excellent sellers'; DC to publish SWAMP THING, TARZAN DIGEST and LAUREL & HARDY DIGEST; Carmine Infantino named Publisher and President, Stan Lee named Publisher and Editorial Director, Roy Thomas named Editor of Marvel; MAN-THING announced; 'Marvel has acquired rights to do THE SHADOW... written by Conway... approximately 50% like the pulp character'; new GHOST RIDER and GUNHAWKS announced; Jekyll and Hyde probable new Marvel series; the SPIRIT MAGAZINE (to be published by Eisner) postponed until at least the end of the year; Bill DuBay made art director and production manager at Warren.

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National Coming Comics

LIMITED COLLECTORS' EDITION (C-46, August-September). The JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA star in their first dollar book under their own name. Reprinted stories are "The Deadly Dreams Of Doctor Destiny" and "The Decoy Missions Of The Justice League" both of which were done by Gardner Fox, Mike Sekowsky and Bernard Sachs. The covers are by Neal Adams and Dick Giordano. (5/4)

LIMITED COLLECTORS' EDITION (C-47, August-September). SUPERMAN SALUTES THE BICENTENNIAL features five TOMAHAWK tales, written by such people as Fred Herron and Bob Haney, and drawn by Fred Ray. Also included is a historical piece set at Valley Forge, also by Ray. Curt Swan did a special Superman intro and the cover is by Ray. (5/4)

OUR ARMY AT WAR (295, August). Sgt. Rock's latest adventure is called "The Devil In Paradise" and is by Bob Kanigher, Joe Kubert and Frank Redondo. The backups are a Sergio Aragones WAR GAMES filler and a Norman Maurer Medal Of Honor story, "Sgt. York." The cover is by Kubert. (5/4)

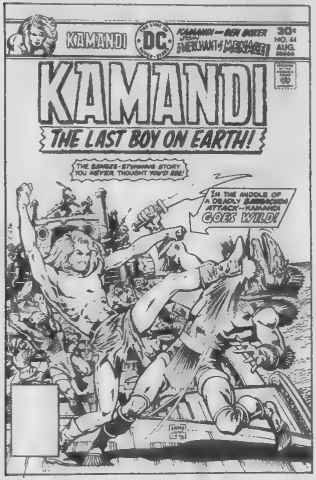
GREEN LANTERN (90, August-September). GL returns with Green Arrow in tow, and they begin their new adventures with "Those Who Worship Evil's Might" by editor Denny O'Neil and Mike Grell. The cover is by Grell. (5/4)

SWAMP THING (24, August-September). No Swamp Thing? What can Alec Holland do against Thrudvang, The Earth Master in "The Earth Below?" Find out in this story by David Kraft, Gerry Conway, Ernie Chua and Fred Carillo. The cover is by Chua. (5/6)

STARFIRE (1, August-September). Another world debuts with a culture mixing swordplay and super-science and Starfire must attempt to change things in "A World Made Of War" by David Michelinie, Mike Vosburg and Bob Smith, with editing by Joe Orlando. The cover is by Ernie Chua and Vince Colletta. (5/6)

HOUSE OF SECRETS (141, August-September). After a hiatus of four months, Cain's brother Abel returns. Stories include "You Can't Beat The Devil" by Bill Finger and E. R. Cruz, and "Exit Laughing" by Jack Oleck, Ernie Chua and Bill Draut. The cover is by Leopoldo Duranona. (5/6)

THE SUPERMAN FAMILY (178, August-September). Lois Lane is the star of this issue's


KAMANDI
KAMANDI—BOY RULER OF THE EARTH OF THE FUTURE AND THE PAST!
30¢
NO. 44
AUG.
KAMANDI
THE LAST BOY ON EARTH!
THE SHOCKING-STUNNING STORY YOU NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D SEE!
IN THE MIDDLE OF A DEADLY BARBARIAN ATTACK - KAMANDI GOES WILD!

KAMANDI (44, August). Kamandi must face the reptile-men again in "The Merchant Of Menace" by Gerry Conway, Keith Giffen and Mike Royer. The Tales Of The Great Disaster story is "The Prince And The Pawn" by David Kraft, Paul Levitz, Pablo Marcos and Steve Mitchell. The cover is by Ernie Chua. (5/4)

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MORE ACTION THAN EVER! 30¢
THE BLAZING BATTLE WITH THRUDVANG! SEPT.
STARTLING! THE RETURN OF
SWAMP THING
TELL ME YOUR SECRET SWAMP THING— TELL ME— OR DIE!
YOU WILL NEVER FORGIVE YOURSELF IF YOU MISS THE MYSTERY OF ALEC HOLLAND!

new story "The Girl With The Heart Of Steel" by Cary Bates and Kurt Schaffenberger. The reprints are "Superman's Phantom Pal," Jimmy Olsen, by Curt Swan and George Klein, plus Supergirl in "The Three Magic Wishes" by Otto Binder and Jim Mooney. The cover is by Schaffenberger. (5/6)

STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES (201, Au-

gust-September). The Unknown Soldier comes back to the U.S. for this adventure, "Back Alley War" by David Michelinie and Gerry Talaoc. The cover is by Joe Kubert. (5/11)

BATMAN (278, August). Batman enlists the aid of a member of Scotland Yard to track down the fiendish Wringer in "Stop Before I Kill -- !" by David Reed and Ernie Chua. The cover is by Chua. (5/11)

HOUSE OF MYSTERY (244, August). This issue's stories are "Kronos-Zagros-Eborak," a tale of witchcraft by George Kashdan and Frank Thorne, and "Your Epitaph Is Only A Birthday Card" by Doug Moench and Franc Reyes. The cover is by Luis Dominguez. (5/11)

SUPERMAN (302, August). Luthor gets to The Man Of Steel during the night and when he awakens he finds that he is "Superman -- Seven Foot Two... And Still Growing!" in a story by Elliot Maggin, Jose Garcia-Lopez and Bob Oksner. The cover is by Ernie Chua and Oksner. (5/11)

METAL MEN (47, August-September). The Erratic Robots must face "The X Effect" -- and there's a wedding in the works! All this is in this issue by Gerry Conway and Walt Simonson. The cover is by Simonson. (5/13)

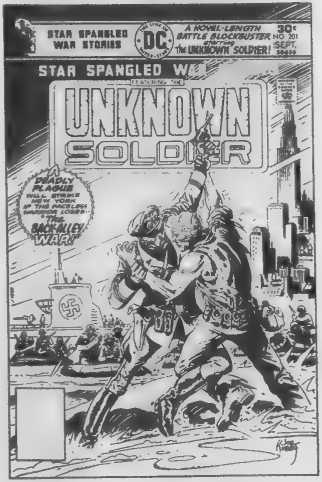
Three Musketeers (and D'Artagnan) investigate "The Secret Of The Spanish Blade" by Bob Haney and Lee Elias. Plus Robin Hood stars in two reprints, "The Attack Of The Sea Raiders" by Haney, Ross Andru and Mike Esposito, and "Three Arrows Against Doom" by Haney and Russ Heath. The cover is by Luis Dominguez. (5/13)

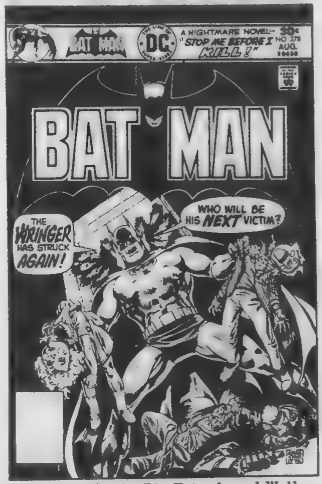
JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA (133, August). Despero enters the picture as the JLA continues their search for Superman with the aid of Supergirl in "Missing -- One Man Of Steel" by Gerry Conway, Dick Dillin and Frenk McLaughlin. The cover is by Ernie Chua. (5/18)

HERCULES UNBOUND (6, August-September). Hercules battles Ares in a life-and-death struggle for Kevin and David Rigg in "Even A God May Die" by Gerry Conway, Jose Garcia-Lopez and Wally Wood. The cover is by Garcia-Lopez. (5/18)

PLASTIC MAN (14, August-September). Plas finds himself up against a couple of strange hamburgers, "Meat By-Product and Sludge" in the latest story by Elliot Maggin, Ramona Fradon and Mike Royer. The cover is by Ernie Chua. (5/18)

RICHARD DRAGON, KUNG FU FIGHTER (11, August-September). The first half of a two-part tale set in China, "When Strike The Samauri" by David Kraft, Ric Estrada and Wally Wood. The cover is by Dick Giordano. (5/18)





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RAGMAN (1, August-September). We know as much as you do about this one -- we do know that it's the first Joe Kubert-edited super-hero comic and that the story is called "The Origin Of The Tatterdemalion" by Bob Kanigher, Joe Kubert and Fred Carillo. The cover is by Kubert. (5/13)

DC SPECIAL (23, August-September). The

THE WITCHING HOUR (65, August-September). Beginning the issue is "A Handy Way To Die" by George Kashdan and Nestor Redondo, which is followed by "The Loathsome Loner" by Carl Wessler and Ricardo Villamonte, and "Laugh? I Thought You'd Die" by Wessler and Redondo. The cover is by Ernie Chua. (5/20)

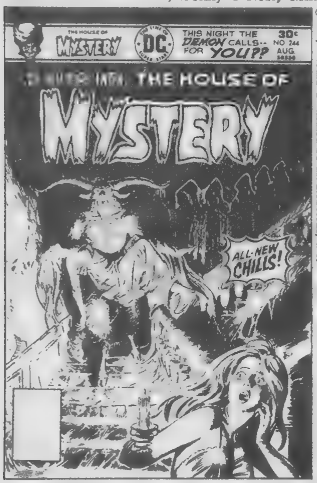
KOBRA (4, August-September). Kobra and Jason are brought back together due to the return of The Servitor's minions in the latest story by Marty Pasko, Pat Gabriele and Terry Austin. The cover is by Ernie Chua. (5/20)

DC SUPER STARS (6, August). The third try-out issue of DC SUPER STARS OF SPACE includes these four heroes: Adam Strange in "The Robot Wraiths Of Rann" by Gardner Fox, Carmine Infantino and Murphy Anderson; Captain Comet in "Beware The Sympathetic Men" by John Broome, Murphy Anderson and Joe Giella; Tommy Tomorrow in "Journey To 1960" by Jim Mooney; and the Space Cabby in "The Luxury Limousine Of Space" by Otto Binder and Bernard Sachs. The cover is by Ernie Chua. (5/20)

G.I. COMBAT (193, August). The crew of the Haunted Tank take time out from battling Germans to save a German child in "The War Will Have To Wait" by Bob Kanigher and Sam Glanzman. Plus, another O.S.S. story. The cover is by George Evans. (5/25)

WONDER WOMAN (225, August-September). A rather presumptuous rich guy wants to buy Wonder Woman in "Maximus -- Emperor Of Hollow Mountain" by Elliot Maggin, Jose Delbo and Vince Colletta. The cover is by Ernie Chua. (5/25)

THE FLASH (243, August-September). One of Flash's hertofore immortal Rogues Gallery dies and leaves this message for the other members attending his funeral: "If I Can't Rob Central City, Nobody Can" -- and that's the name of this Cary Bates, Irv Novick, and Frank McLaughlin story. Green Lantern winds up his Ravagers Of Olys adventure with "Dust Of The Earth" by Denny O'Neil, Mike



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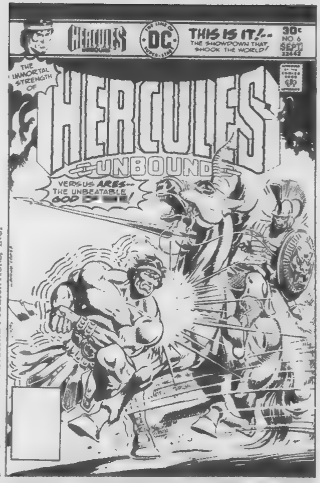

CREEPY SHOCKERS OF SURPRISE AND SUSPENSE
30¢ NO. 65 SEPT.
IT'S MIDNIGHT
THE WITCHING HOUR
YOUR LIFELINE SHOWS YOU'LL SOON DIE!
LIFELINE? HA HA HA! I DON'T BELIEVE THAT NONSENSE!

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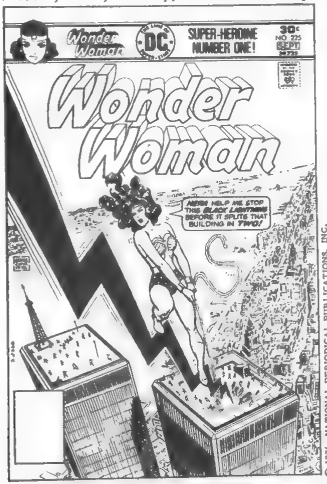
Grell and Tex Blaisdell. The cover is by Ernie Chua. (5/25)

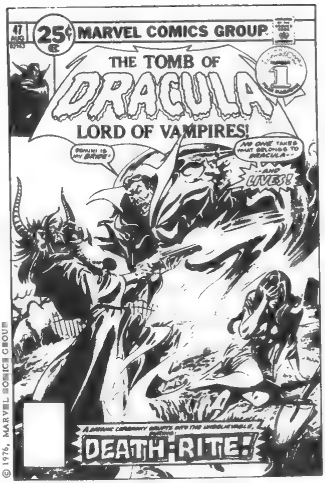
SUPER-TEAM FAMILY (6, August-September). This last reprint issue features Superman and Batman facing off with one of the most powerful foes of their past in "The Return Of The Composite Superman" by Cary

Bates, Curt Swan and George Klein. Plus The Marvel Family stars in "And Then There Were None" by Kurt Schaffenberger. The cover is by Ernie Chua. (5/25)

TARZAN (252, August). Continuing the adaptation of TARZAN THE UNTAMED is chapter three by Gerry Conway, Jose Garcia-Lopez



MARVEL COMICS GROUP
DARE DEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR
DAREDEVIL'S BECOME A KILLER, MY INFLUENCE NOW, HE MUST DIE!
I'M ABOUT TO BECOME THE JESTER!
BROADWAY
© 1976, MARVEL COMICS GROUP



and Rudy Florese. The cover is by Garcia-Lopez. (5/27)

ACTION COMICS (462, August). Superman and Karb-Brak have their final knock-down, drag-out in a "Super-War Of Independence" by Cary Bates, Curt Swan and Tex Blaisdell. Krypto returns in a backup adventure by E. Nelson Bridwell, Curt Swan and Al Milgrom. The cover is by Bob Oksner. (5/27)

DETECTIVE COMICS (462, August). Captain Stingaree has captured two Batmen and uses Robin to capture the real one in "Kill Batman -- In Triplicate" by Bob Rozakis, Mike Uslan, Ernie Chua and Frank McLaughlin. Plus, The Elongated Man returns in "The Clue Of The Talking Orchid" by Rozakis, the Union Studio and Vince Colletta. The cover is by Ernie Chua. (5/27)

Marvel Coming Comics

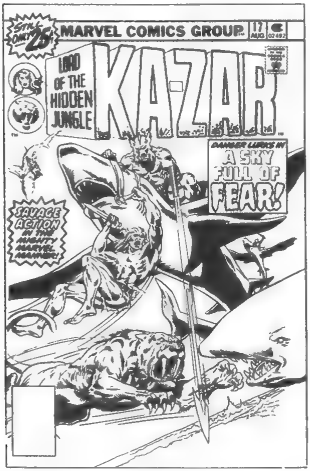
DAREDEVIL (136, August). DD and the police are hampered when President Ford goes on TV and says that police and super-heroes are criminals and should be shot on sight -- plus, The Jester's scheme is revealed in "A Hanging For Hero" by Marv Wolfman, John Buscema and Jim Mooney. (5/4)

TOMB OF DRACULA (47, August). In a satanic ritual, Dracula and Domini consummate their marriage while a mystery man comes to destroy the Satan Cult in "Birthright: Death" by Marv Wolfman, Gene Colan and Tom Palmer. The cover is by Colan and Palmer. (5/4)

THE INVADERS (8, August). Union Jack joins

The Invaders after the defeat of Baron Blood in this issue by Roy Thomas, Frank Robbins and Vince Colletta. (5/4)

MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE (18, August). The Thing teams up with The Scarecrow to prevent Kalumi from escaping his interdimensional prison in "Dark, Dark, Demon Night" by Bill Mantlo, Scott Edelman, Ron Wilson and Dan Adkins. (5/4)


MARVEL COMICS GROUP
LORD OF THE HIDDEN JUNGLE
KA-ZAR
DANGER LURKS IN A SKY FULL OF FEAR!
SAVAGE ACTION IN THE MIGHTY MARVEL MANNER!

SON OF SATAN (5, August). Last issue's mystery begins to unravel as SOS sets out to discover who killed the student and ends up being attacked by Mindstar in "Assassin's Mind" by John Warner, Craig Russell, and Sonny Trinidad. (5/4)

WEIRD WONDER TALES (17, August). (5/4)

TWO-GUN KID (131, August). (5/4)

MARVEL COMICS GROUP
THIS IS IT!! THE SPECTACULAR 250th ISSUE!
THE MIGHTY THOR
IF ANYBODY DRAWS THE COMMANDO, THE UNIVERSE WILL BE DESTROYED!
AND NOT EVEN MORE ENCHANTED HAMMER CAN STOP HIM!

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IRON FIST (6, August). This issue features the mysterious Mind-Meld in "Death Match" by Chris Claremont, John Byrne and Frank Chiaramonte. (5/4)

MARVEL PREMIERE (31, August). Presenting a truly unique super-hero: WOOD-GOD, who is a satyr. "Birthday" is by Bill Mantlo, Keith Giffen and Klaus Janson. The cover was drawn by Jack Kirby. (5/4)

SUPER-VILLAIN TEAM-UP (7, August). The origin of The Shroud is presented as well as Namor's release from servitude in "Who Is The Shroud?" by Steve Englehart, Herb Trimpe and Pablo Marcos. (5/4)

KID COLT OUTLAW (208, August). (5/4)

MARVEL DOUBLE FEATURE (17, August). Iron Man is featured in the book for the last time in "The Torrent Without, The Torment Within" by Archie Goodwin, Gene Colan and Johnny Craig, reprinted from IRON MAN & SUB-MARINER #1. Captain America stars in "Into The Jaws of AIM" by Stan Lee, Jack Kirby and Joe Sinnott, from TALES OF SUSPENSE #93. (5/4)

KA-ZAR (17, August). Ka-Zar and Zabu battle air sharks in "The Shark On The Winds" by Doug Moench and Val Mayerik. (5/4)

KULL THE DESTROYER (16, August). Kull's return to the color line features a flashback sequence to remind us of what has occured in Kull's various appearances and is by Roy Thomas, Doug Moench, Ed Hannigan and Steve Gan. (5/4)

PLANET OF THE APES (22, July). Presenting a story that ties it all together, the complete "Quest For The Planet Of The Apes." Part one is "Seeds Of Future Death" by Doug Moench and Rico Rival, and part two is "The Keeper Of Future Death" by Alfredo Alcala and Moench. The cover is by Earl Norem. (5/4)

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (159, August). To rescue Aunt May from Hammerhead, Spidey must go "Arm In Arm In Arm In Arm In Arm In Arm With Dr. Octopus" in this issue by Len Wein, Ross Andru and Mike Esposito. (5/11)

CAPTAIN AMERICA (200, August). This bicentennial issue features the conclusion of the Mad-Bomb saga and ends up in a race as Cap must prevent the Mad-Bomb from detonating before "The Dawn's Early Light" in a story by Jack Kirby and Frank Giacoia. The cover is by Kirby. (5/11)

THOR (250, August). Thor must prevent

Man-Gog from pulling the Odin-Sword and destroying the universe in "If Asgard Should Perish" by Len Wein, John Buscema and Tony DeZuniga. The cover is by Jack Kirby. (5/11)

MASTER OF KUNG FU (43, August). Liko returns and Shang-Chi and Shockwave have a rematch in "A Flash Of Purple Sparks" by Doug Moench, Paul Gulacy and Jack Abel. (5/11)

THE ETERNALS (2, August). The first of the Celestials returns to Earth -- Ajak. Revealed is the reason for their coming in "The Celestials" by Jack Kirby, Frank Giacoia and John Verpoorten. The cover is by Kirby. (5/11)

DOCTOR STRANGE (17, August). Dr. Strange and Clea go to 1776 and meet some people who wish to stop the revolution in "The Occult History Of America" by Steve Englehart, Gene Colan and Tom Palmer. (5/11)

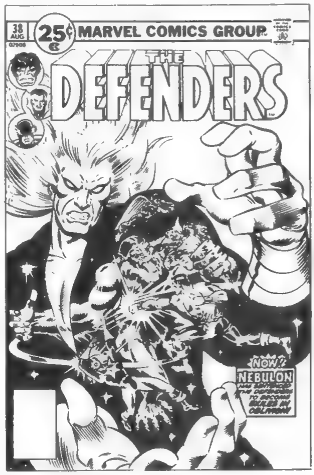
MARVEL SPOTLIGHT (29, August). The Moon Knight winds up as a pawn on a chessboard as he fights the Conqueror Lord in this concluding episode by Doug Moench and Don Perlin. The cover is by Jack Kirby. (5/11)

THE GHOST RIDER (19, August). "Resurrection" means a big change in Ghost Rider and that we'll never see Hell or the Devil again -- at least in this strip, by Tony Isabella, Frank Robbins and Vince Colletta. (5/11)

THE INHUMANS (6, August). The Great Refuge has been destroyed and The Inhumans must find a new home in "The King Of Ruins" by Doug Moench, Gil Kane and Vince Colletta. (5/11)

MARVEL CHILLERS (6, August). Tigra confronts Red Wolf and Joshua Plague's true identity is revealed in "Night Of The Wolf" by Tony Isabella and John Byrne. The cover is by Rich Buckler and Mike Esposito. (5/11)

THE DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU (25, July). The first part of a new series called "Sword's Quest" is called "Destiny Cross-Swords" and is by John Warner and Sanho Kim. The backup is an inventory story called Samurai"



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by Bill Mantlo and Pat Broderick. Also featured is an interview with screenwriter Sterling Silliphant. The cover is by Earl Norem. (5/11)

THE INCREDIBLE HULK (202, August). The Hulk again meets Jarella in a microworld just as she is about to be sacrificed in "Havoc At The Heart Of The Atom" by Len Wein, Sal Buscema and Joe Staton. The cover is by John Buscema. (5/18)

THE AVENGERS (150, August). This issue was to feature the final line-up selections and flashbacks, but due to the startling occurances detailed on page 27 of this issue, there will be a reprint of something. (5/18)

CONAN THE BARBARIAN (65, August). Delayed from last issue is "Fiends Of The Feathered Serpent" by Roy Thomas, John Buscema and The Tribe. The cover is by Gil Kane and Vince Colletta. (5/18)

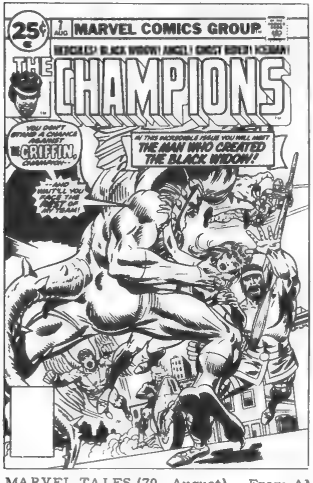
THE DEFENDERS (37, August). Dr. Strange, Red Guardian and Power Man are exiled by Nebulon to another dimension where they must learn to survive, plus Nighthawk returns to action in "Exile To Oblivion" by Steve Gerber, Sal Buscema and Klaus Janson. The cover is by Rich Buckler and Joe Sinnott. (5/18)

POWER MAN (34, August). Some of the wraps are taken off the relationship between Spear and Noah Burnstein and The Mangler is introduced in "Death, Taxes, and Spring-Time Vendettas" by Marv Wolfman, Don McGregor and Pat Gabriele. (5/18)

THE CHAMPIONS (7, August). The Champions prepare for the inevitable -- their first bout with another super-hero team in "The Man Who Created The Black Widow," Tony Isabella's final issue, drawn by George Tuska and John Tartaglione. (5/18)

THE X-MEN (100, August). The centennial issue brings back the old X People to do battle with the new ones and Jean Grey's future is determined, all in "Greater Love Hath No X-Man" by Chris Claremont and Dave Cockrum. (5/18)

BLACK GOLIATH (4, August). "Enter Stilt Man, Exit Black Goliath" in a puff of smoke. Story is by Chris Claremont, art by Rich Buckler and Don Heck. (5/18)



MARVEL TALES (70, August). From AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #89, "Doc Ock Lives" by Stan Lee, Gil Kane and John Romita. (5/18)

MARVEL TREASURY EDITION (10, 1976). THOR stars in these reprints: "To Wake The Man-Gog," "Now Ends The Universe," "The Hammer And The Holocaust," and "Behind Him, Ragnarok," all by Stan Lee, Jack Kirby and Vince Colletta, from THOR #154-157. (5/18)

FANTASTIC FOUR (172, August). The FF must search for a world that Galactus can devour instead of Counter-Earth in "At The Hands Of Galactus" by Roy Thomas, John Buscema and Joe Sinnott. (5/25)

MARVEL TEAM-UP (48, August). Spidey and Iron Man join together to defeat The Wraith in "A Fine Night For Dying" by Bill Mantlo, and Sal Buscema. (5/25)

IRON MAN (89, August). Iron Man and Daredevil get together again and some of the mystery behind The Blood Brothers is removed in "Brute Fury" by Archie Goodwin, George Tuska and Vince Colletta. (5/25)

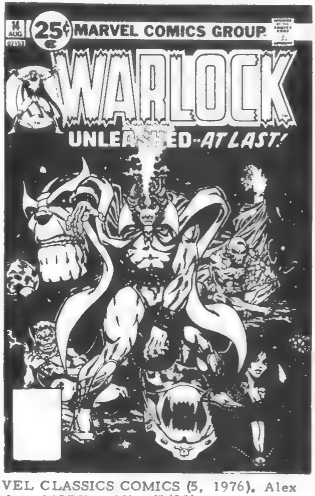
MARVEL PRESENTS (6, August). The Guardians come one step closer to finding out the truth about the thing that's eating the galaxy in "The Topographical Man" by Steve Gerber, Al Milgrom and Terry Austin. (5/25)

WARLOCK (14, August). Jim Starlin and Steve Leialoha prove that "You Can't Go Home Again." The cover is by Starlin and Leialoha. (5/25)

MARVEL ADVENTURE (5, August). From DAREDEVIL #26 is reprinted "Stiltman Strikes Again" by Stan Lee and Gene Colan. (5/25)

ADVENTURES ON THE PLANET OF THE APES (7, August). If things follow as they have been, this will be "Beneath The Planet Of The Apes" from POTA #7 by Doug Moench and Alfredo Alcala. However, it was originally done in pencil, so who knows? (5/25)

SPIDEY SUPER STORIES (18, August). (5/25)



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MARVEL CLASSICS COMICS (5, 1976). Alex Nino does MOBY DICK. (5/25)

MARVEL CLASSICS COMICS (6, 1976). Rudy Nebres draws BLACK BEAUTY. (5/25)

MARVEL CLASSICS COMICS (7, 1976). GULLIVER'S TRAVELS by E.R. Cruz. (5/25)

MARVEL CLASSICS COMICS (8, 1976). TOM SAWYER by E.R. Cruz. (5/25)

Late News

Just as we go to press, we find that we have some important news and we must bump out an ad we were to run for the GAZETTE, GUARDIAN and back issue sets.

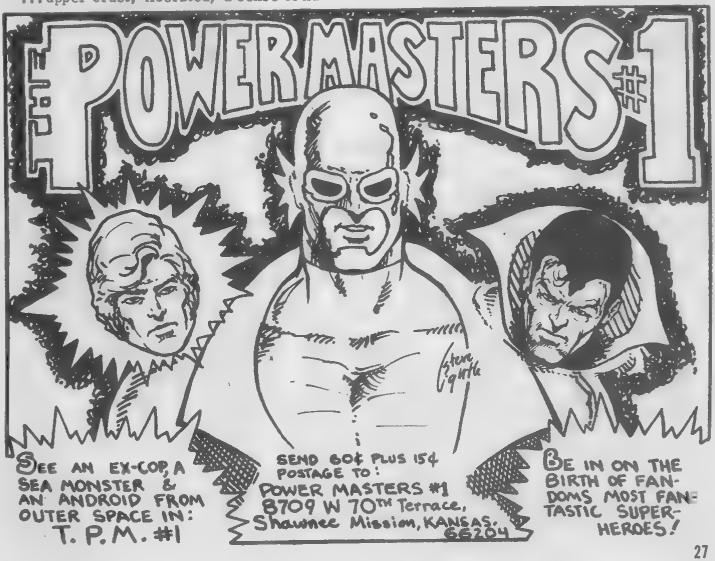
Steve Englehart has left Marvel and will become a writer for National, effective immediately. Steve became miffed because he was taken off the AVENGERS after having plotted the next two issues and the ANNUAL, and tendered his resignation. Since the departure is of such recent occurance, details of his duties at DC, such as whether he will edit the three books a month he will be doing, are not known at this time. It is probable that some of those books will be new titles, possibly in conjunction with Frank Brunner or Jim Starlin, both of whom have also left Marvel.

The new writers on Steve's books will be as follows: Gerry Conway will be writing THE AVENGERS as of #152, the first adventure of which having been plotted by Englehart; Chris Claremont will script CAPTAIN MARVEL as of #46; and Marv Wolfman has inherited DR. STRANGE, beginning with #19, SUPER-VILLAIN TEAM-UP with #9, and THE PRISONER as of #2.

Okay, speaking of THE AVENGERS -- the other Avengers from England, that is -- John Steed's new assistants have been named. They are Joanna Lumley, who is to play Purdey, described by Brian Clemens as "...upper crust, liberated, a sense of humor, quite tough but with a touch of vulnerability," while Lumley describes her character as "...a stockings and suspenders girl..." as those who saw the TIME Magazine photo will attest to; and Gareth Hunt, known to American audiences as Frederic the footman in UPSTAIRS, DOWNSTAIRS, plays the male assistant. The budget for the new series of thirty episodes is about $2 million and the series is expected to begin in autumn. There has been no further mention of Diana Rigg in connection with the series. (Thanks to Richard Burton for the information.)

We meant to mention a few pages ago that DC's SUPER FRIENDS show has returned to ABC's Saturday morning schedule, albeit in reruns of the seventeen episodes originally shown. No word as yet whether the SHAZAM/ISIS HOUR will be renewed for another season.

ABC's announcement of its new shows was surprising, first, because they announced first for the first time in their history, and second, because the new shows seem surprisingly bland. None of the new shows is different from anything we haven't already seen... but then ABC is working from a position of power, and they don't have to do any more pioneering. One unheard of thing, however, is the fact that they haven't changed time-slots on any of the remaining shows. (Wonder what Rhoda's gonna do without her parents? What will Sally & Mac do without Mildred? Questions, questions...) MT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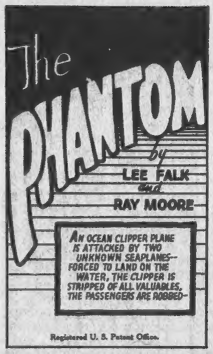
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and
RAY MOORE
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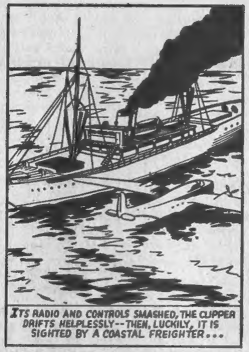
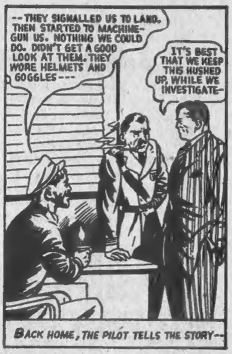
Registered U. S. Patent Office.




—THEY SIGNALLED US TO LAND. THEN STARTED TO MACHINE-GUN US. NOTHING WE COULD DO. DIDN'T GET A GOOD LOOK AT THEM. THEY WORE HELMETS AND GOGGLES—
IT'S BEST THAT WE KEEP THIS HUSHED UP, WHILE WE INVESTIGATE—
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CLIPPER PILOT
(RETURN OF PAGE 2)
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AIR PIRATES! THAT'S A NEW ONE ON ME! I'LL CONFESS THAT I CAN'T HANDLE IT. I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN!

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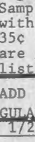

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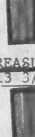

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